

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for offering at least one item for sale to at least one consumer operating at least one user client belonging to a plurality of user clients, the system comprising;

(a) the plurality of user clients, each of the user clients designed and configured to operate a graphical user interface, said graphical user interface designed and configured for offering the at least one item for sale;

(b) at least one server capable of communicating with each user client of the plurality of user clients, said server designed and configured for:

(i) providing information pertaining to the at least one item for sale to a specific user client belonging to said plurality of user clients, wherein said information includes a plurality of fixed prices for the at least one item for sale, a single price from said plurality of fixed prices being made available to the consumer in return for a fee;

(ii) debiting an account belonging to the at least one consumer for the amount of the fee;

(iii) further debiting said account for said single price if the consumer elects to purchase the item for sale.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein said plurality of fixed prices is selected from the group consisting of identical prices and varied prices.

3. The system of claim 2, said at least one server is further designed and configured for providing a list displayed in said graphical user interface, said list including all of said plurality of fixed prices.

4. The system of claim 2, wherein said server is further designed and configured for:

(iv) allowing the consumer to cancel the sale.

5. The system of claim 2, wherein said server is further designed and configured for:

(v) further debiting said account for an additional fee if the consumer elects to have an alternate single price made available.

6. A method for offering at least one item for sale to at least one consumer operating at least one user client belonging to a plurality of user clients, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing, by means of a server, information pertaining to the at least one item for sale to the user client belonging to the plurality of user clients, wherein said information including information pertaining to a plurality of fixed prices for the at least one item for sale;

(b) revealing a single price from said plurality of fixed prices to the consumer in return for a fee; and

(c) debiting an account belonging to the at least one consumer for the amount of said fee.

7. The method of claim 6, comprising the additional step of:

(d) further debiting said account for said single price in order to effect a purchase of the item for sale.

SECRET 7-26-2004

8. The method of claim 6, wherein said plurality of fixed prices are selected from the group of identical and varied prices.

9. The method of claim 8, comprising at least one additional step selected from the group consisting of:

- (d) providing a list of said plurality of fixed prices for the at least one item for sale to the consumer for display on a user client;
- (e) allowing the consumer to cancel the sale;
- (f) permitting the consumer to request the display of an additional fixed price belonging to said plurality of fixed prices of the at least one item for sale and debiting said account for an additional fee.

10. A method of purchasing at least one item for sale from a party, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) displaying, on a user client, information pertaining to the at least one item for sale, wherein said information includes information regarding a plurality of fixed prices for the at least one item for sale;
- (b) remitting to an account of the party a fee in order to ascertain a single price from said plurality of fixed prices.

11. The method of claim 10, comprising the additional step of :

- (c) further remitting to said account said single price in order to purchase the item for sale.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein said plurality of fixed prices are selected from the group of identical and varied prices.

13. The method of claim 11, including at least one additional step selected from the group consisting of:

- (d) canceling the sale;
- (e) remitting an additional fee to said account in order to ascertain an additional fixed price belonging to said plurality of fixed prices.

14. A system for offering at least one item for sale to at least one consumer operating at least one user client belonging to a plurality of user clients, the system comprising;

at least one server capable of communicating with each user client of the plurality of user clients, said server designed and configured for:

- (a) providing information pertaining to the at least one item for sale to a specific user client belonging to said plurality of user clients, wherein said information includes a plurality of fixed prices for the at least one item for sale, a single price from said plurality of fixed prices being made available to the consumer in return for a fee;
- (b) debiting an account belonging to the at least one consumer for the amount of the fee;
- (c) further debiting said account for said single price if the consumer elects to purchase the item for sale.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein said plurality of fixed prices is selected from the group consisting of identical prices and varied prices.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein said at least one server is further designed and configured for providing a list displayed in said graphical user interface, said list including all of said plurality of fixed prices.

17. The system of claim 15, wherein said server is further designed and configured for:

(d) allowing the consumer to cancel the sale.

18. The system of claim 15, wherein said server is further designed and configured for:

(e) further debiting said account for an additional fee if the consumer elects to have an alternate single price made available.

Adel A17